

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Members present were: Mr. John Groothuis, Mr. Bill Wolf, Mr. Earl Hower, Mr. R. Max Peterson and Mr. Jim Hicks. Absent was: Ms. Anne Wall and Ms. Kathleen Pritchard. Staff was represented by Jay Banks and Becki Hardy

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 18, 2000 meeting were approved as amended by Commission Hower.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** None

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commissioner Hicks nominated Commissioner Groothuis to continue his position as Chairman

Motion: Hicks                      Second: Hower                      Carried: 5-0

Commissioner Hicks nominated Commissioner Hower for Vice Chairman.

Motion: Hicks                      Second: Peterson                      Carried: 5-0

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Flower and Garden Show Sign-Up** – Mr. Banks passed out Ms. Walls sign up sheet for this year's booth. Mr. Hower asked if the EAC would be having a booth this year. Mr. Hicks stated that they have not expressed an interest in having one this year. Mr. Hicks asked if the Leesburg Tree Stewards were available to man the booth. Mr. Banks stated that the Tree Stewards are on hold and will probably be dissolved, due to the lack of manpower.

Commissioner Hicks asked if there was Tree Steward training. Mr. Banks stated that one of them has already acquired that training on their own.

**Arbor Day** – Mr. Groothuis asked where Arbor Day was going to be held this year. Mr. Banks stated Arbor Day will be held at Banshee Reeks Park located off Evergreen Mill Road and there will be space available for the Tree Commission display.

Mr. Hower stated that Arbor Day should be discussed in the next meeting due to Ms. Wall and Ms. Pritchard not being present tonight.

**Budget** - Mr. Groothuis stated Ms. Wall would like to have videos available and to raise our support to \$1500.00.

Mr. Hower asked what our time line was for the budget. Without a Quorum of the Tree Commission last month there was no direction expressed towards the budget so Mr. Banks placed a \$10,000.00 amount for the Tree Commissions Budget for 2001-2002.

Mr. Banks had discussed with Ms. Pritchard to continue with the promotional and educational support as well providing coverage for the Flower & Garden Show and Arbor Day. Mr. Banks recommended getting out of the tree planting business because it really seems to tie down the Commission.

Mr. Hicks asked if there was any money set aside for tree planting. Mr. Banks stated that no money had been set aside and that a sticking point for the Commission is to come up with a project every year. Mr. Banks also stated that the Commission should focus their energy on the maintenance of trees.

Mr. Banks advised that the small tree Arboretum has been included in the Capital Projects scheduled for 2002-2006.

**Tree Planting** – Mr. Hower asked if there should be a design study for the Eastern Entrance to Leesburg from the by pass to the town limits. Commissioners discussed the issue and asked staff to provide more information at next months meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Banks suggested to the Commission that this year's tree planting project would be to replace several trees that have been removed from Olde Izaak Walton Park with 1 large specimen tree.

The Commission discussed instead of planting 1 specimen tree to plant several trees at the park with 1 being large specimen. The Commission approved funding for the project.

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Hicks stated he had attended the last EAC meeting and updated the Tree Commission on their issues.

Mr. Peterson advised the Tree Commission of new funding availability that should be reaching the state, local and recreational areas.

Mr. Hower reported on the last Parks and Rec. Commission meeting.

There being no further business, the Tree Commission adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Jay Banks, Town Arborist

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Becki Hardy, Recording Secretary